The Whistler

Newsletter of the Ringwood Field Naturalists Club Inc.

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From the Editor

Welcome to our April 2025 bumper edition of The Whistler – at 23 pages, it's one of the longest editions we've ever had!

We've had a great 6 months of excursions and meeting speakers, and our Club hosting the SEANA Spring Weekend Away at Marysville in October. With 12 months of preparation by our dedicated sub-committee, coupled with outstanding support from our wider membership, it made for a most enjoyable weekend, with lots of excursions on offer, evening talks and wonderful catering.

It's been another dry summer, with less consistent rainfall, and the summer temperatures hung on into mid-March, with a heatwave of 30+ degree days into the second week. We noticed the impact of the dry conditions on our recent Port Fairy weekend away (report in the next edition) where the landscape out west was extremely parched and barren.

Weekday Outings/Excursions - Inta and Shirley are going to organise 2 Weekday outings per program to see whether there is support for this to happen. For the next program they are on Thursday 1st May and Thursday 28th August. We will try to vary the day of these outings week and run the outings between 10 am and 2pm.

Our next weekend away is to St Arnaud in October. I highly recommend our "camp-outs" if you haven't been on one before – they're a great way to see somewhere further away.

Jack Airey
Editor

In October, we hosted the SEANA Spring Weekend Away in Marysville. One of the excursions was to Cathedral Range, pictured above, which was great for birdwatching in the lush forest.

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Member News

Welcome to our new members - Janis Evans, Jessica Hill, Rosemary McLaughlin.

Out and About

Boomers Reserve

Sunday 22nd September 2024
Leaders: Alison & Peter Rogers

Twenty-nine members assembled at the Blue House Road entrance. Following the down-hill track, we were able to see a variety of flowering plants and orchids. Several different pea flowers were particularly pretty in the bush. A highlight for quite a few members was being shown *Caladenia amoena* (Charming Spider Orchid). This is a rather rare orchid being protected in one of the enclosed areas.

Another rather unusual sighting was an ant volcano of Double-spined Dolly Ants. These ants will gather at the top of their nest possibly to warm up themselves or to cool the nest down.

Taking a slight detour, members walked up the hill toward Yanggai Reserve to look out over paddocks toward

Caladenia amoena
Charming Spider Orchid

A volcano of Double-spined Dolly Ants

Panton Hills. In a fenced off area, *Dillwynia phylicoides* was one of a few pea flower species flowering profusely.

Returning to the main track we followed this to the road and made our way back to the cars.

There were 25 birds recorded for the morning including Varied Sitellas, Rufous Whistler, Buff-rumped Thornbill with a Shining Bronze-Cuckoo being heard.

Lunch was taken in St Andrews. This concluded the Club excursion for the day. From here members opted to visited other sites within the area or call it quits and head back home.

In all, it was a very enjoyable morning walk.

By Alison & Peter Rogers

Lunch in St Andrews
(Photo – Judith Cooke)

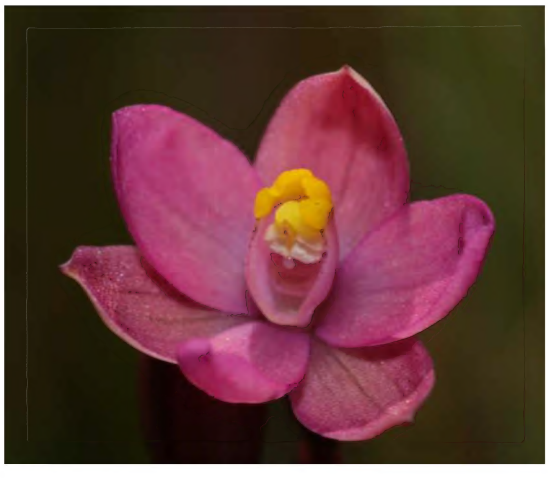
Crib Point

Sunday 13th October 2024
Leader: Jack Airey

Thelymitra aristata
(Great Sun Orchid)

In October we headed down the Mornington Peninsula to Crib Point. Crib Point is extra special as it has areas of remnant bushland that provide vital habitat for native terrestrial orchids. On the day we went, we were very lucky with the weather - it was blue skies and sunny, with a mild temperature and only a slight breeze – perfect for orchid spotting. And vastly better than the previous weekend which was thick cloud, windy and rain!

Starting at the grassland reserves on Lorimer Street, we quickly found great numbers of open sun orchids, with the most common being *Thelymitra ixioides* (Spotted Sun Orchid). We also found several groups of *Thelymitra aristata* (Great Sun Orchid), which were absolutely spectacular, being on average 1 metre tall. We walked the loop track around the reserve, seeing other *Thelymitra* species including *carnea*, *pauciflora*, *reflexa*, *rubra* and X *irregularis*, among others. We managed to find just a single Purple Beard Orchid, *Calochilus robertsonii*.



Far left: *Thelymitra rubra*
(Salmon Sun Orchid)

Left: *Thelymitra carnea*
(Pink Sun Orchid)

We then moved to another location close by and found a large colony of *Chiloglottis curviclavia* (Autumn Wasp/Bird Orchid), although they were out of season for flowering. The highlight of this track was a couple of *Thelymitra* X *macmillianii* (Crimson Sun Orchid), which is a hybrid of *Thelymitra antenniferra*, *carnea* and/or *rubra*. We also saw *Lyperanthus suaveolens* (Brown Beaks) along the path.

Thelymitra antennifera
(Rabbit Ears)

Thelymitra flexuosa
(Twisted Sun Orchid)

We then stopped for lunch at a picnic spot in Crib Point itself, which was a nice rest under the tall pine trees. After lunch we headed to one last spot near the train tracks. Orchids weren't as abundant as Lorimer Street, however we added 3 Leek Orchids - *Prasophyllum elatum* (Tall Leek Orchid), *Prasophyllum lindleyanum* (Green Leek Orchid) and *Prasophyllum odoratum* sp (Sweet Leek Orchid). We also saw a few patches of *Thelymitra antenniferra* (Rabbit Ears), and a couple of *Thelymitra flexuosa* (Twisted Sun Orchid).

After the walk we wrapped up the excursion, with all members agreeing it was an amazing day.

By Jack Airey

Lyperanthus suaveolens
(Brown Beaks)

Left and above:
Thelymitra X irregularis
(Crested Sun Orchid)

Thelymitra X macmillianii
(Crimson Sun Orchid)

Marysville SEANA weekend

Friday 25th to Sunday 27th October 2024
Hosted by the Ringwood Field Naturalists Club

In October, our Club hosted the Spring SEANA (South East Australian Naturalists' Association) weekend away to Marysville. The RFNC last hosted a weekend away in 2017 which was to the Little Desert. With much planning and preparation by the sub-committee, and wonderful support from the wider membership, the weekend was a great success and a credit to the RFNC.

Below are some excursion reports from the weekend, and there are bird lists in the Appendix.

Alexandra (McKenzie Flora Reserve and Grannies Lane)

Seventeen SEANA members drove the 43km north of Marysville to McKenzie Flora Reserve, Alexandra, on Saturday 26th of October 2024. The group met on Plantation Lane adjacent to the Reserve, at 10.30am. Although it had been very cold overnight, the sun came out, it warmed up and there was very little breeze, ideal conditions for bird watching. After an introduction to the history of the Reserve, the group set off on the track from Plantation Lane.

Soon after entering the Reserve, White-browed Scrubwrens and Brown Thornbills dashed across the track and hopped around nearby bushes allowing all in the party to see them. Not much further along the track a Mistletoebird was spied and then soon after a Shining Bronze-Cuckoo was sighted. After another 200 meters, a female or juvenile Satin Bowerbird was seen in a tall eucalypt and at about the halfway point of the walk, magic happened when two Leaden Flycatchers hopped about in a small branching tree not far from the track.

Flowering plants such as Chocolate Lilies, Milkmaids, Dianellas, Goodenias, Pea flowers and others grabbed the attention of many in the group, so photographs were taken, discussions ensued, and our progress became delightfully slow. It is a good sign when there is lots to see. We didn't get back to the cars until 1pm, the general consensus being the track was more than 2km long.

The lunch venue was beside UT Creek in Alexandra, at the Rotary Park, where everyone's attention was taken by a Beautiful Leaf Moth (*Gastrophora henricaria*) which was spotted in the toilets and brought out for all to see. At 2pm the group drove to the lower end of Grannies Lane, where the beautiful call of the White-throated Gerygone was heard and soon after it was sighted and its nest found. An Olive-backed Oriole called and was seen and Euan in the group caught sight of a large raptor in a very tall eucalypt which was identified as a Collared Sparrowhawk. Rufous Whistlers, Grey Fantails and Yellow-faced Honeyeaters were abundant and hovering Weebills were also noticed.

Fifty-two species of birds were recorded for the day, forty-four found in McKenzie Flora Reserve and thirty on Grannies Lane with some species being found in both locations. There were also plenty of plant species seen and photographed. Everyone in the group agreed that we had experienced an exceptionally enjoyable and profitable day in the bush.

By Inta & Roger Needham

Meeting of the Waters, Buxton

Twelve people participated in this walk in perfect weather. After seeing the rivers merging, we took a walk along the Acheron River to Dyes Lane and back. Among the plants seen beside the track were Trigger Plants, Cherry Ballarts and Olearia. A number of birds were seen and/or heard during the walk.

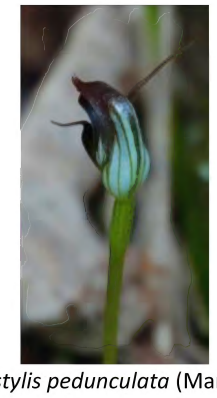
Steavenson Falls and Beauty Spot

Nine people came on this walk. We started at the Steavenson Falls carpark and walked the 700m or so to the viewing platforms for the Falls, looking at birds and plants along the way. We then travelled a few kilometres to the Beauty Spot and spent the rest of the morning there.

Flowers seen at the two sites included the Dainty Wasp Orchid, Bird Orchids, Pink Fingers, Cryptic Fingers and some Maroonhoods. A number of birds were seen and/or heard during the two walks.

By Eleanor & Warwick Dilley

Prostanthera ovalifolia (Purple Mintbush)



Pterostylis pedunculata (Maroonhood)

Chiloglottis valida (Common Bird Orchid)

Lady Talbot Drive

We were very happy to see a Rose Robin on Sunday morning at Taggerty River picnic area. He stayed in the tree for photos and good viewing opportunity for everyone. Lady Talbot Drive is a very scenic drive beside the Taggerty River. From the meeting place on the Taggerty River we drove to the Keppel Falls on Lady Talbot Drive.

The Keppel brothers who originally found and named the falls were early settlers in the area in early 1880's. The falls walk is 2km return and is easy to medium standard. The track follows the Taggerty River and has viewing spots for Keppel Falls. The falls are a tiered waterfall over large granite boulders. The new fern fronds on many of the ferns were very attractive. Mountain Correa (*Correa lawrenciana*) had a few flowers on it. Hard water fern with lovely copper new fronds (*Bleckman watsii*). After the walk to the falls, a further drive along the Lady Talbot Drive is the Keppel Falls Lookout. The view of the falls is narrow and the top of the falls are seen in the distance. The damage to the Mountain Ash trees from fires can be seen on the side of the hills.

By Lynn & Neal Smith

Cambarville

We enjoyed fine weather although it was fresh Saturday morning. Walked around the historical area of Cambarville sawmill and township site, a flat and open area reading the information boards. Flame Robins were seen here. In the 1860's this was a stopping point along the road to the Woods Point Gold fields. The timber mill was built to harvest Alpine Ash after the 1939 bush fires. Milling operation ceased when it was burnt down in 1970. Leadbeater's possum was seen at Cambarville on 3/4/1961 and in 2011 a Mountain Ash seedling was planted as 50th Anniversary of this with information sign and plaque. Amazing to see the growth of this seedling in the 13 years. In this area the Mountain Pepper (*Tasmannia lancelata*) is growing well in the open, but the deer have been eating the new growth.

From Cambarville picnic area the walk to the Big Tree, a 400-year-old Mountain Ash, is 1km. It was regarded at one time as the tallest tree in Australia at 92m until 1959 when a storm snapped the top off. The track has tree ferns and a bridge over Cumberland creek. Near the bridge is Myrtle beech (*Nothofagus cunninghamii*) with copper colour leaves. *Zieria arborescens* is flowering along walking track.

The Elephant tree is along this track and was named by researchers who spent 20 years studying the animals that lived in this Mountain Ash. It has a very large base which looks like an elephant foot hence the name. We found lots of Common Bird orchid leaves and a few flowers. The track had several fallen trees that we had to climb over to reach the Big Tree. Everyone managed to scramble or climb over these obstacles.

By Lynn & Neal Smith

Cathedral Range

Guests were offered a full day excursion to the Cathedral Range, north of Marysville. The excursion, which was based at the Cook's Mill Campground, consisted of a morning walk along the Friends Nature Walk, a lunch break, and then a shorter afternoon walk through a more open area, which provided views of the range.

Saturday

A chilly morning to start, produced picturesque blue skies for our group of 16 on today's excursion. After a briefing at the meeting point, we headed off on the Friends Nature Walk. Birds were quite active, and we quickly identified the primary honeyeater for the day – the Yellow-faced Honeyeater. Olive-backed Oriole was heard calling for most of the walk, and we managed to see 5-6 Satin Bowerbirds near the end of the trail. While walking along the section that runs close to Storm Creek, we encountered a Tiger Snake sunning itself on the track, which thankfully quickly moved on after its initial surprise as we rounded the corner. We also saw a large deer crashing through the undergrowth and crossing the creek. With the sunny conditions, the cicadas were deafening at times, making it hard to hear each other, let alone the birds.

Tiger Snake

Cyclochila australasiae
(Cicada – "Yellow Monday")

Satin Bowerbirds

After lunch, we headed north of the campground along a vehicle management track, getting great views of the range and several peaks, including the North and South Jawbones. We only saw a few birds on this walk, but we managed to see an Australian Kestrel. Our total bird count for the day was 28 species.

Sunday

While the morning wasn't as cool as the day before, the sky was heavily overcast to start, and the group of 12 participants even had a few drops of rain while on the Friends Nature Walk. We saw many of the same birds along the trail, but also added Sacred Kingfisher, White-naped and Brown-headed Honeyeater, a pair of Brown Goshawks, and the highlights of a Tawny Frogmouth (great spotting Peter!) and a Crested Shrike-tit. We also found the same group of Satin Bowerbirds towards the end of the walk. One reprieve of the cooler weather was the noticeable lack of cicadas calling.

The afternoon walk gave the same great views of the range and its distinctive rock formations for the group and also added some unexpected birds to our list – Pacific Black Duck and Great Cormorant – both flying overhead. We also spotted presumably the same Australian Kestrel, perched on the same tree as the day before. Despite the gloomier weather, birds were more abundant, and we recorded 37 species for the day, only missing Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike from Saturday's excursion. The two orchids recorded were *Chiloglottis valida* (Common Bird Orchid) and *Microtis* sp., neither of which had open flowers.

By Jack Airey

Healesville

The Sanctuary provided a great opportunity for participants to see many of our rare and endangered species at close quarters. Barbara, our very experienced and enthusiastic guide, imparted a lot of information about all the creatures we saw. Of particular interest was the aviary containing Orange-bellied Parrots, Regent Honeyeaters and Corroboree Frogs. At the Animal Hospital a Galah was having a pin inserted into its injured leg and the new Raptor Rehabilitation Centre was admired. We all enjoyed seeing the Platypus before attending the Bird Show. Highlights of the afternoon included watching the antics of the Tasmanian Devils and seeing the rare species in the Nocturnal House. Everyone agreed this had been a most interesting and rewarding excursion.

Barbara telling us about Tree Kangaroos

By Hazel & Alan Veevers

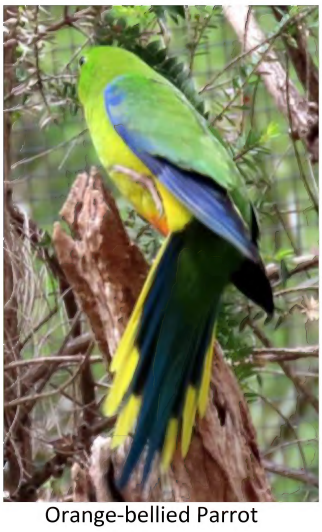
Healesville

Young Tasmanian Devil

Leaving a misty morning in Marysville, 18 participants of the SEANA Conference departed to meet at Healesville Sanctuary. Travelling via the Black Spur it looked stunning in the early morning with the tree ferns overhanging the road and the Eucalypts all upstanding in their rows. Everyone was on time at 10.00am and commenced a walk around the Sanctuary.

We were introduced to the echidnas then the koalas and kangaroos including the Goodfellows Tree kangaroos. The group was particularly interested in the Fighting Extinction Aviary where they saw Orange Bellied Parrots, Regent Honeyeaters and the conservation program for the Corroboree Frogs.

Regent Honeyeater


Orange-bellied Parrot

They were also impressed at the Raptor Rehabilitation Facility and the Animal Hospital adjacent to it. We saw the Platypus swimming in its tank and learned of the Aboriginal legend about the birth of a Platypus. We attended the Spirits of the Sky Bird Show at 12 noon then we had our lunch where we were greeted by the echidnas once again.

Following the break, we went to the Wetlands to see a large range of water birds including a Black-necked Stork, Radjah Shelducks, Royal Spoonbills with their nuptial plumes, and a great view of a Blue-winged Kookaburra. We then visited the Tasmanian Devils, Wombats and the Nocturnal House.

Many people remarked on the flora at the Sanctuary which is at its best at this time of the year with the Native Frangipani (*Hymenosporum flavum*) many grevilleas and Native Hibiscus all showing off their beautiful blooms, as well as a lovely example of a *Xanthorrea australis* at the front entrance.

The group finished the tour at 3pm and returned to Marysville.

By Barbara Lloyd

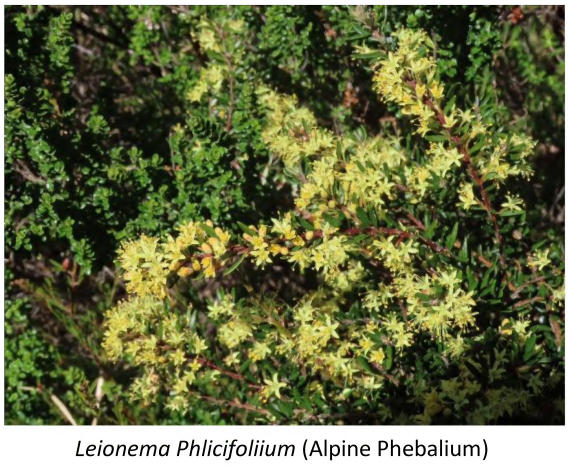
Lake Mountain

Thirteen people met at the Ticket Box car park on a fairly cool and overcast morning before driving up to Gerraty's car park for a brief morning tea. At about 10:30 am we set off on a walk to Helicopter flat.

Flame Robin

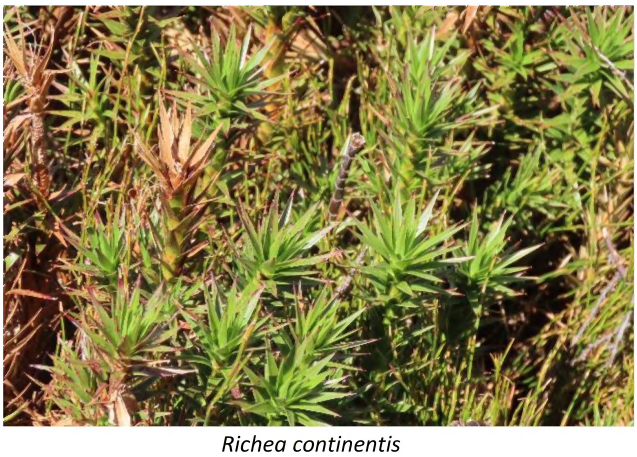
Just by the main building we inspected the plantings of some of the most significant plants of Lake Mountain which gave us a foretaste of some of the species we could expect to see. As well as the appropriately named *Grevillea monslacana* there was also a specimen of *Podocarpus lawrencei* (Mountain Plum-pine) which grows at only one site on the Mountain. There we were greeted by a very obliging Flame Robin.

At the Snow Gauge we had a good impression of how the flora had recovered since the bushfire of 2009. The path to Helicopter Flat was decorated with masses of yellow flowers of *Leionema Phlicifoliium* - the Alpine Phebalium. Even though it was a bit early to see many flowering plants we did find the *Rannculus collinus* (Strawberry Buttercup), *Podolobium aloestre* (Alpine Shaggy Pea), *Hovea montana* (Tasmania xerophila - Alpine Pepper), *Acacia alpina* (Alpine Wattle), *Acacia obliquinerva* (Mountain Hickory Wattle), *Asterolasia trymaloides* (Alpine Star-bush), and *Richea continentis*. We then headed back to Gerraty's for lunch. Even though walking had been very pleasant along the trails, the car park was very cold – about 5°C with the wind making it feel more like 0°C!


Leionema Phlicifoliium (Alpine Phebalium)

Path to Helicopter Flat

Hovea montana


Richea continentis

After lunch we took the short Leadbeaters walk where the dominant flowers were *Prostanthera cuneata* (Alpine Mint Bush), *Philotheca myoporoides* (Long-leaf Waxflower) and the ground-cover *Hydrocotyle hirta* (Hairy Pennywort). On the way back to the car park we were entertained for several minutes by a Lyrebird which went through a repertoire of at least ten different bird calls.

Philotheca myoporoides (Long-leaf Waxflower)

Prostanthera cuneata (Alpine Mint Bush)

We then moved down the mountain to Cameron's Cascade Track where we spent about an hour or so. The vegetation was much different from higher parts of the mountain with many different ferns and a different suite of flowering plants. These included *Ozothamnus*, *Zieria arborescens* (Stinkwood), *Cardamine lilacina* (Lilac Bitter Cress) and an unusual fruiting pink lichen - *Dibaeis baeomyces*.

Dicksonia antarctica (Soft Tree Fern)

Histiopteris incisa (Bat's wing fern)

Ozothamnus sp.

Dibaeis baeomyces

By Eeva & David Hewitt

Jindivick and Labertouche

Sunday 17th November 2024
Leaders: Inta & Roger Needham

Seventeen club members arrived at the cricket oval at Jindivick by 10am for the excursion. Apart from a light shower of rain prior to arrival, the morning was fine.

At 10.15am we made our way by car to Nangara Reserve and embarked on the short walk through the Reserve. The path descends gently from the car park through a wet sclerophyll forest into a ferny glade beside a small creek. Not far along the track, Angela spotted a Dainty Wasp orchid (*Chiloglottis trapeziformis*) and members crowded around to examine and photograph it. In the shrub layer of the forest Pink Boronia (*Boronia muelleri*) and Wiry Bauera (*Bauera ruboides*) were in flower along with Goodenias and Olearias.

Boronia species (David Hewitt)

Birds were hard to see but there were plenty of calls. At last, a large bird moved through the canopy and when it briefly emerged from the foliage was seen to be a Satin Bowerbird. Bird calls recognized in the area belonged to Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo, Grey Shrike-thrush, White-naped Honeyeater, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Shining Bronze-cuckoo and Sacred Kingfisher. Near the creek Eastern Yellow Robin, Brown Thornbill, Golden Whistler and Grey Fantail were seen.

The group walked slowly enjoying the environment. Other orchids were spotted; a yet to open blue sun orchid which we couldn't identify, a tallish beautiful blue sun orchid with lots of flowers - Tall Sun Orchid (*Thelymitra media*) and a Copper Beard Orchid (*Calochilus campestris*).

Thelymitra media
Tall Sun Orchid

Calochilus campestris
Copper Beard Orchid

On the way back to the car park a few of us spotted a Rufous Fantail which sat on a branch for 2 seconds and then took off at great speed chasing another bird and disappearing. Soon after, a strong wind sprang up and the temperature dropped noticeably, suggesting that a cold front was passing through.

Once back at the car park we decided that the large picnic shelter in Jindivick was a good location for lunch. As we arrived there it began to rain and rain and rain. By the end of lunch, it was clear that, as the rain continued, the afternoon program would be uncomfortable, so it was decided to abandon the outing and members made their way home.

By Inta & Roger Needham

Lillydale Lake

Saturday 11th January 2025
Leaders: Eleanor & Warwick Dilley

Eurasian Coots and Pacific Black Ducks

Twenty-two members turned out despite a very warm forecast for the day. We set off from the car park to the edge of the lake and followed the path which runs between the lake and the northern end of the wetlands. A group of Eurasian Coots and Pacific Black Ducks, along with one Australasian Swamphen, were to be seen on the grass slope by the shore. The wetlands contained several more species such as Australian Wood Ducks, a Masked Lapwing, Chestnut Teal and Australian White Ibises.

After some distance and not many more birds, we headed up a grassy slope towards the Bellbird Drive. We walked part way along this road and then turned into Akarana Road, which crosses Olinda Creek. Through a gate, a short track took us down to a dam. Again, there were very few birds to be seen, though the walk was pleasant in the shade. We did add a Crested Pigeon to the list.

Crested Pigeon

Australasian Swamphen

From there we strolled back through a grassed area, pausing to watch a pair of Australian Wood Ducks on a small pond, and a larger group of Wood Ducks and a pair of Galahs on the grass. We then turned off the main track to a subsidiary one which took us to the entrance to the wetlands. A lone Magpie-lark was working along the edge of the track looking for food.

Australian Wood Ducks

These are now looking established again after extensive work which had closed them for a considerable period, but the birds were still rather scarce. We did find a White-faced Heron doing some fishing and admired a beautifully made Magpie-lark's mud nest on a branch directly over the boardwalk. A young Eurasian Coot was searching for food with no sign of parents nearby, so it was presumably independent.

White-faced Heron

We set ourselves up for lunch under trees near the lake and a light breeze off the water helped keep us comfortable there. After a bird call, we were quite surprised to find that we had recorded 30 species of birds, with mammals represented by some Grey-headed Flying-foxes seen in the distance on the island in the lake.

As it was continuing to warm up, it was agreed that we would conclude the excursion after lunch.

By Eleanor & Warwick Dilley

Magpie-lark mud nest

Galah

A view over the wetlands

Warrien Reserve – January outdoor meeting

Wednesday 8th January 2025
Leaders: Alison & Peter Rogers

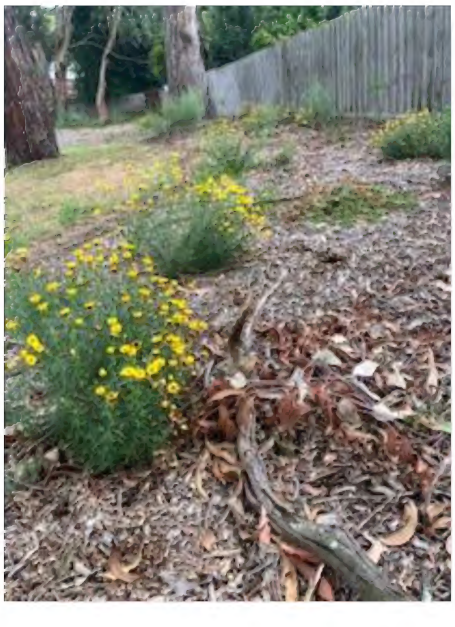
Our first event for the New Year is our outdoor meeting in January. We get together after the Christmas break for a picnic tea, a short meeting and then a walk around a local bushland reserve. This year we visited Warrien Reserve in Corydon North. It was a quiet walk for bird life, but it was a nice reserve, and it was good to catch up with members. Below is a photo collage put together by Judith Cooke.

Planting Day 2025

We're having a planting day on Sunday 4th May in Ringwood. As usual the Council will dig the holes and provide the plants. Further details will be in the program.

Last year's planting on Mersey Street was very successful as can be seen in Alicia's photo (right). We had a great turnout of about 14 members so it would be great to see you in May to keep the good work going.

Hazel Veevers



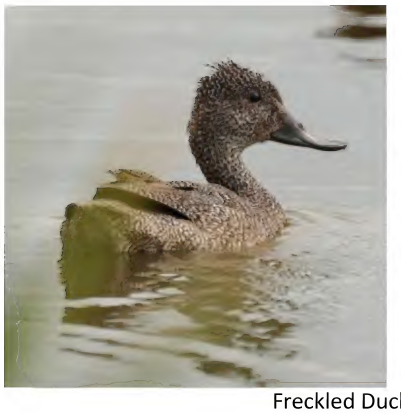
Braeside Park

Saturday 15th February 2025
Leader: Jack Airey

Our planned excursion to Coolart Homestead and Wetlands was cancelled because the wetlands were too dry, due to the lack of decent rainfall over the past few months. Ironically, the replacement excursion to Braeside Park was scheduled with a forecast of rain and thunderstorms! 21 members braved the weather for what turned out to be a very fruitful excursion, recording 60 bird species. And we only got slightly rained on.

A view over the wetlands showing the mud around the lake

We met at the Red Gum picnic area and after a quick briefing, headed off on our walk around the lake. The water level in the lake was quite low, exposing a wide expanse of mud around it. This actually helped with birdwatching, as some birds were feeding or sitting on the mudflats out in the open, while the waterbirds were less spread out on the water. We saw 9 species of ducks, including great views of Pink-eared Ducks, Freckled Ducks and Australian Shovelers. On the mud, we observed a small group of Pied Stilts, a number of Black-fronted Dotterel and a Latham's Snipe.



Freckled Duck and Pink-eared Duck

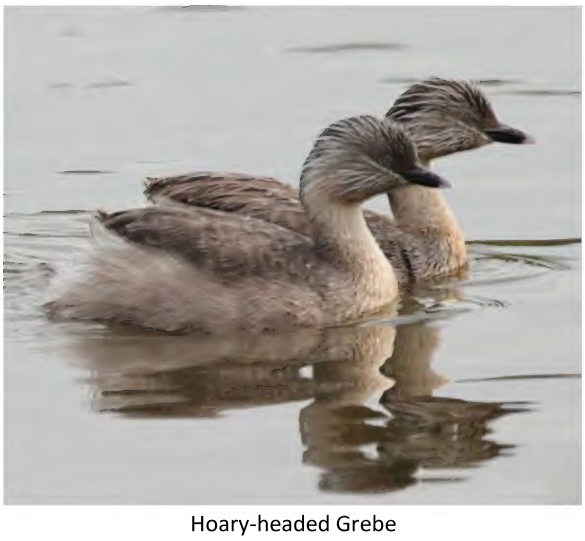
Braeside Park is a great spot for raptors, but there weren't many about, perhaps being a little too windy. We did see a pair of Wedge-tailed Eagles, and a Black-shouldered Kite. Around the eastern side of the lake, where there are more bushy areas and smaller islands, we found a Great Egret, Royal Spoonbill, White-faced Heron, and to everyone's delight, 7 Nankeen Night Herons on the edge of the water. Heading back to the carpark, we added Crested Pigeon, Eastern Rosella and Red-rumped Parrot to our list, which are all reliable in the park.

Magpie Geese, who have been residing in the park for a few months
(according to locals)

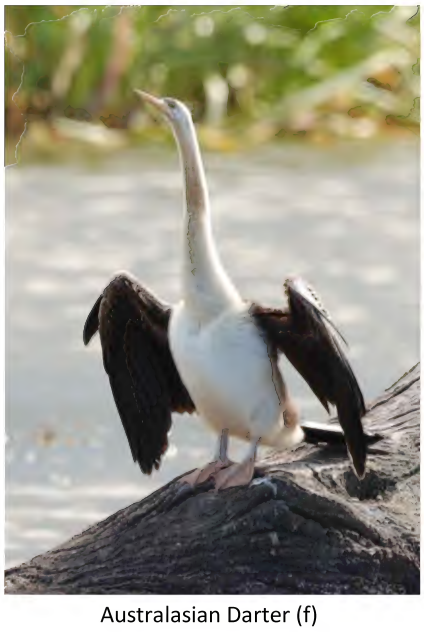
Lots of birdlife on the lake

We drove to the northern section and set up for lunch, finding a flock of Tree Martins hawking over the grassy fields. No sooner had we sat down, then the wind turned cold, and it started to rain, so we beat a hasty retreat to the veranda around the visitor centre, exactly as we did the last time we were here in 2023. After lunch we did a bird call and were very pleased to get to 60 species, which is a great total given the weather. Braeside Park is a great reserve for an excursion, and I look forward to being back there.

By Jack Airey



Hoary-headed Grebe



Australasian Darter (f)

7 Nankeen Night Herons – can you spot them?

Appendix

Boomers Reserve
Compiled by Alison & Peter Rogers

Flowering Plants

Acacia brownii	*Acacia genistifolia*	*Amyema pendula*
Billardiera scandens	*Coronidium scorpioides*	*Correa reflexa*
Dampiera stricta	*Daviesia leptophylla*	*Dianella revoluta*
Dillwynia cinerescens	*Dillwynia phylicoides*	*Drosera auriculata*
Epacris impressa (pink & white)	*Geranium* possibly *potentilloides*	*Ghania radula*
Goodenia blackiana	*Leucopogon virgatus*	*Microseris walteri*
Olearia myrsinoides	*Pimelea humilis*	*Pultenea gunnii*
Stackhousia monogyma	*Thysanotus tuberosus*	*Wurmbea dioica*

Orchids

Caladenia amoena (Charming Spider-orchid)	*Caladenia carnea* (Pink Fingers)
Caladenia moschata (Musky Caladenia)	*Caladenia parva* (Small Spider Orchid)
Diuris pardina (Leopard Orchid)	*Glossodia major* (Waxlip Orchid)
Pterostylis melagramma (Tall Greenhood)	*Pterostylis nutans* (Nodding Greenhood)

Mosses and Lichens (thanks to Judith Cooke)

Genus *Thuidiopsis*	*Polytrichum juniperinum*
Genus *Cladia*	Genus *Cladonia*

Birds – 24 species

Striated Pardalote	White-winged Chough	Spotted Pardalote
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Crimson Rosella	Grey Currawong
Buff-rumped Thornbill	Little Raven	Grey Shrike-thrush
Fantail Cuckoo	Superb Fairy-wren	Grey Fantail
Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Little Corella	Laughing Kookaburra
Shining Bronze-cuckoo	Rufous Whistler	Scarlet Robin
Australian Magpie	Varied Sitella	Bell Miner
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Eastern Spinebill	Mistletoebird

Grey Fantail

Crib Point

Orchids – 18 species
Complied by Jack Airey with grateful assistance from Joan Broadberry

Calochilus robertsonii - Purple Beard Orchid	*Thelymitra brevifolia* - Peppertop Sun Orchid
Chiloglottis curviclavia - Autumn Wasp Orchid (leaves)	*Thelymitra carnea* - Pink Sun Orchid
Lyperanthus suaveolens - Brown Beaks	*Thelymitra flexuosa* - Twisted Sun Orchid
Prasophyllum elatum - Tall Leek Orchid	*Thelymitra ixioides* - Spotted Sun Orchid
Prasophyllum lindleyanum - Green Leek Orchid	*Thelymitra pauciflora* - Slender Sun Orchid
Prasophyllum odoratum sp - Sweet Leek Orchid	*Thelymitra reflexa* - Gaping Sun Orchid
Pterostylis nutans - Nodding Greenhood	*Thelymitra rubra* - Salmon Sun Orchid
Thelymitra antennifera - Rabbit Ears	*Thelymitra* X *irregularis* - Crested Sun Orchid
Thelymitra aristata - Great Sun Orchid	*Thelymitra* X *macmillianii* - Crimson Sun Orchid

Birds – 30 species
Compiled by Graeme Fernandes

Black Swan	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	White-eared Honeyeater
Australian Wood Duck	Galah	Grey Shrike-thrush
Hoary-headed Grebe	Rainbow Lorikeet	Grey Fantail
Pied Cormorant	Crimson Rosella	Magpie Lark
Australian Pelican	Eastern Rosella	Australian Magpie
Australian White Ibis	Laughing Kookaburra	Pied Currawong
Straw-necked Ibis	Striated Pardalote	Little Raven
Pacific Gull	Red Wattlebird	Welcome Swallow
Silver Gull	Noisy Miner	Common Starling
Spotted Turtle-dove	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Common Blackbird

Members at Crib Point

Marysville SEANA Weekend combined bird list – 79 species
Compiled by Hazel & Alan Veevers on behalf of the RFNC excursion leaders

Pacific Black Duck	Superb Lyrebird	Rufous Whistler
Chestnut Teal	White-throated Treecreeper	Golden Whistler
Australian Wood Duck	Superb Fairy-wren	Grey Shrike-thrush
Common Bronzewing	Noisy Friarbird	Eastern Whipbird
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	Crescent Honeyeater	Crested Shrike-tit
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	Brown-headed Honeyeater	Olive-backed Oriole
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	White-eared Honeyeater	Pied Currawong
Tawny Frogmouth	White-naped Honeyeater	Grey Currawong
White-necked Heron	Eastern Spinebill	Australian Magpie
Australian White Ibis	Lewins Honeyeater	Grey Butcherbird
Great Cormorant	Fuscous Honeyeater	Willie Wagtail
Wedge-tailed Eagle	White-plumed Honeyeater	Grey Fantail
Brown Goshawk	Red Wattlebird	Little Raven
Collared Sparrowhawk	Noisy Miner	Australian Raven
Southern Boobook	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Leaden Flycatcher
Sacred Kingfisher	Spotted Pardalote	Magpie-lark
Laughing Kookaburra	Striated Pardalote	White-winged Chough
Nankeen Kestrel	Weebill	Eastern Yellow Robin
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	White-browed Scrubwren	Rose Robin
Gang-gang Cockatoo	Large-billed Scrubwren	Flame Robin
Galah	Brown Thornbill	Mistletoebird
Long-billed Corella	Yellow Thornbill	Welcome Swallow
Little Corella	Striated Thornbill	Silvereye
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Buff-rumped Thornbill	Common Myna
Australian King-Parrot	White-throated Gerygone	Common Blackbird
Crimson Rosella	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	
Eastern Rosella	Satin Bowerbird	

Buxton bird list – 10 species
Compiled by Eleanor & Warwick Dilley

Laughing Kookaburra	Spotted Pardalote	Crimson Rosella
Red Wattlebird	Australian White Ibis	Satin Bower-bird (F)
Superb Fairy-wren	Raven species	
Grey Fantail	Australian King Parrot	

Steavenson Falls and Beauty Spot bird list – 12 species
Compiled by Eleanor & Warwick Dilley

Laughing Kookaburra	White-throated Treecreeper	Brown Thornbill
White-browed Scrub-wren	Golden Whistler (F)	Crimson Rosella
Grey Fantail	Spotted Pardalote	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
Fantail Cuckoo	Grey Shrike-thrush	Pied Currawong

Alexandra (McKenzie Flora Reserve and Grannies Lane) bird list – 52 species
Compiled by Inta & Roger Needham

White-necked Heron	Welcome Swallow	Pied Currawong
Australian Ibis	White-browed Scrubwren	Grey Butcherbird
Pacific Black Duck	Weebill	Australian Magpie
Chestnut Teal	Yellow Thornbill	White-winged Chough
Collared Sparrowhawk	Striated Thornbill	Australian Raven
Nankeen Kestrel	Brown Thornbill	Little Raven
Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	Buff-rumped Thornbill	Satin Bowerbird
Gang-gang Cockatoo	White-throated Gerygone	Olive-backed Oriole
Galah	Spotted Pardalote	Leaden Flycatcher
Little Corella	Striated Pardalote	Grey Fantail
Long-billed Corella	Superb Fairy-wren	Rufous Whistler
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Grey Shrike-thrush
Crimson Rosella	Eastern Spinebill	Mistletoebird
Eastern Rosella	Noisy Miner	Silvereye
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Red Wattlebird	Common Blackbird
Shining Bronze-cuckoo	Noisy Friarbird	Common Myna
Laughing Kookaburra	White-throated Treecreeper	
Sacred Kingfisher	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	

Cambarville bird list – 13 species
Compiled by Lynn & Neal Smith

Flame Robin	Silvereye	Laughing Kookaburra
Pied Currawong	Raven species	Fan-tailed Cuckoo
Grey Fantail	Brown Thornbill	Eastern Whipbird
Australian Magpie	Superb Fairy-wren	
Grey Shrike-thrush	Crimson Rosella	

Lady Talbot Drive bird list – 17 species
Compiled by Lynn & Neal Smith

Rose Robin	Eastern Spinebill	Raven species
Eastern Yellow Robin	Golden Whistler	Satin Bowerbird
Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	Silvereye	Superb Lyrebird
White-browed Scrubwren	Brown Thornbill	Shining Bronze-cuckoo
Superb Fairy-wren	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Fan-tailed Cuckoo
Pied Currawong	Grey Fantail	

Cathedral Range bird list – 38 species
Compiled by Jack Airey

Pacific Black Duck	Laughing Kookaburra	Eastern Whipbird
Great Cormorant	White-throated Treecreeper	Crested Shrike-tit
Brown Goshawk	Superb Fairy-wren	Golden Whistler
Australian Kestrel	Spotted Pardalote	Grey Shrike-thrush
Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	Striated Pardalote	Grey Fantail
Gang-gang Cockatoo	White-browed Scrubwren	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
Long-billed Corella	Striated Thornbill	Olive-backed Oriole
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Brown Thornbill	Grey Butcherbird
Australian King-Parrot	Red Wattlebird	Australian Magpie
Crimson Rosella	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Pied Currawong
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	White-naped Honeyeater	Little Raven
Tawny Frogmouth	Brown-headed Honeyeater	Satin Bowerbird
Sacred Kingfisher	Eastern Yellow Robin	

Lake Mountain bird list – 25 species
Compiled by Eeva & David Hewitt

Crimson Rosella	White-eared Honeyeater	Pied Currawong
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Red Wattlebird	Grey Currawong
Shining Bronze-cuckoo	Lewin's Honeyeater	Eastern Whipbird
Superb Lyrebird	Grey Fantail	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
Spotted Pardalote	Eastern Yellow Robin	Little Raven
Striated Pardalote	Flame Robin	Silvereye
White-browed Scrubwren	Grey Shrike-thrush	Pilotbird (heard, not confirmed)
Brown Thornbill	Golden Whistler	Welcome Swallow
Crescent Honeyeater	Olive Whistler	

Jindivick and Labertouche bird list – 25 species
Compiled by Inta & Roger Needham

Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	White-browed Scrubwren	Fan-tailed Cuckoo
Brown Thornbill	White-faced Heron	Eastern Whipbird
Laughing Kookaburra	Grey Shrike-thrush	Sacred Kingfisher
Golden Whistler	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Grey Butcherbird
Galah	Australian Magpie	Australian King-Parrot
Pied Currawong	Crimson Rosella	Australian Rufous Fantail
Satin Bowerbird	Grey Fantail	White-throated Treecreeper
Little Raven	White-naped Honeyeater	Eastern Yellow Robin
Spotted Pardalote		

Lillydale Lake bird list – 30 species
Compiled by Eleanor & Warwick Dilley

Australian White Ibis	Dusky Moorhen	Little Raven
Eurasian Coot	Grey Fantail	Australian Magpie
Pacific Black Duck	Superb Fairy-wren	Magpie-lark
Australian Wood Duck	Silvereye	Pied Currawong
Chestnut Teal	Welcome Swallow	Crested Pigeon
Australasian Swamphen	Crimson Rosella	Spotted Dove
Australasian Darter	Galah	Grey Butcherbird
White-faced Heron	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Red Wattlebird
Little Pied Cormorant	Gang-gang Cockatoo (heard)	Noisy Miner
Masked Lapwing	Little Corella	Common Myna

Braeside Park bird list – 60 species
Compiled by Jack Airey

Magpie Goose	Nankeen Night Heron	Red-rumped Parrot
Black Swan	Royal Spoonbill	Superb Fairy-wren
Musk Duck	Australian White Ibis	Spotted Pardalote
Australian Wood Duck	Straw-necked Ibis	Brown Thornbill
Pink-eared Duck	Wedge-tailed Eagle	Noisy Miner
Grey Teal	Black-shouldered Kite	New Holland Honeyeater
Chestnut Teal	Dusky Moorhen	Grey Fantail
Freckled Duck	Australasian Swamphen	Willie Wagtail
Hardhead	Eurasian Coot	Magpie Lark
Pacific Black Duck	Latham's Snipe	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
Australasian Shoveler	Pied Stilt	Grey Butcherbird
Australasian Grebe	Black-fronted Dotterel	Australian Magpie
Hoary-headed Grebe	Masked Lapwing	Pied Currawong
Darter	Silver Gull	Little Raven
Great Cormorant	Crested Pigeon	Red-browed Finch
Little Black Cormorant	Common Bronzewing	Welcome Swallow
Little Pied Cormorant	Spotted Turtle-dove	Tree Martin
Australian Pelican	Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	Silvereye
Great Egret	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Common Myna
White-faced Heron	Eastern Rosella	Common Blackbird